

protest if the contracting officer determines in writing that an award must be made to protect the public interest.

(c) *Notice of determination.* SBA will notify the contracting officer, the protestor, and the protested concern of its determination.

(d) *Effect of determination.* The determination is effective immediately and is final unless overturned on appeal by the ADA/GC&BD, pursuant to § 126.805. If SBA upholds the protest, SBA will decertify the concern.

[63 FR 31908, June 11, 1998, as amended at 69 FR 29427, May 24, 2004]

§ 126.804 Will SBA decide all HUBZone status protests?

SBA will decide all protests not dismissed as premature, untimely or non-specific.

§ 126.805 What are the procedures for appeals of HUBZone status determinations?

(a) *Who may appeal.* The protested HUBZone SBC, the protestor, or the CO may file appeals of protest determinations with the ADA/GC&BD.

(b) *Timeliness of appeal.* The ADA/GC&BD must receive the appeal no later than five business days after the date of receipt of the protest determination. SBA will dismiss any appeal received after the five-day period.

(c) *Method of Submission.* The party appealing the decision may deliver its appeal in person, by facsimile, by express delivery service, or by U.S. mail (postmarked within the applicable time period).

(d) *Notice of appeal.* The party bringing an appeal must provide notice of the appeal to the contracting activity contracting officer and either the protested HUBZone SBC or original protestor, as appropriate.

(e) *Grounds for appeal.* (1) SBA will re-examine a protest determination only if there was a clear and significant error in the processing of the protest or if the AA/HUB failed completely to consider a significant fact contained within the information supplied by the protestor or the protested HUBZone SBC.

(2) SBA will not consider additional information or changed circumstances that were not disclosed at the time of

the AA/HUB's decision or that are based on disagreement with the findings and conclusions contained in the determination.

(f) *Contents of appeal.* The appeal must be in writing. The appeal must identify the protest determination being appealed and set forth a full and specific statement as to why the decision is erroneous or what significant fact the AA/HUB failed to consider.

(g) *Completion of appeal after award.* An appeal may proceed to completion even after award of the contract that prompted the protest, if so desired by the protested HUBZone SBC, or where SBA determines that a decision on appeal is meaningful.

(h) *Decision.* The ADA/GC&BD will make a decision within five business days of receipt of the appeal, if practicable, and will base his or her decision only on the information and documentation in the protest record as supplemented by the appeal. SBA will provide a copy of the decision to the CO, the protestor, and the protested HUBZone SBC, consistent with law. The ADA/GC&BD's decision is the final agency decision.

[63 FR 31908, June 11, 1998, as amended at 69 FR 29427, May 24, 2004]

Subpart I—Penalties

§ 126.900 What penalties may be imposed under this part?

(a) *Suspension or debarment.* The Agency debarring official may suspend or debar a person or concern pursuant to the procedures set forth in part 145 of this title. The contracting agency debarring official may debar or suspend a person or concern under the Federal Acquisition Regulation, 48 CFR Part 9, subpart 9.4.

(b) *Civil penalties.* Persons or concerns are subject to civil penalties under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. 3729–3733, and under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act, 31 U.S.C. 3801–3812, and any other applicable laws.

(c) *Criminal penalties.* Persons or concerns are subject to severe criminal penalties for knowingly misrepresenting the HUBZone status of a small business concern in connection with procurement programs pursuant to section 16(d) of the Small Business Act, 15

U.S.C. 645(d), as amended; 18 U.S.C. 1001; and 31 U.S.C. 3729–3733. Persons or concerns also are subject to criminal penalties for knowingly making false statements or misrepresentations to SBA for the purpose of influencing any actions of SBA pursuant to section 16(a) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. 645(a), as amended, including failure to correct “continuing representations” that are no longer true.

[63 FR 31908, June 11, 1998, as amended at 69 FR 29428, May 24, 2004]

PART 130—SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

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AUTHORITY: Sections 5(b)(6) and 21 of the Small Business Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. 634(b)(6) and 648; Pub. L. 101-515, 101 Stat. 2101; Pub. L. 101-574, 104 Stat. 2814; Pub. L. 102-366, 106 Stat. 986; and Pub. L. 102-395, 106 Stat. 1828.

SOURCE: 60 FR 31056, June 13, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§ 130.100 Introduction.

(a) *Objective.* The SBDC Program creates a broad-based system of assistance for the small business community by linking the resources of Federal, State and local governments with the resources of the educational community and the private sector. Although SBA is responsible for the general management and oversight of the SBDC Program, a partnership exists between SBA and the recipient organization for the delivery of assistance to the small business community.

(b) *Incorporation of amended references.* All references in these regulations to OMB Circulars, other SBA regulations, Standard Operating Procedures, and other sources of SBA policy guidance incorporate all ensuing changes or amendments to such sources.

§ 130.110 Definitions.

Applicant organization. An entity, described in § 130.200(a), which applies to establish and operate an SBDC network.

Application. The written submission by a new applicant organization or an existing recipient organization explaining its projected SBDC activities for the upcoming budget period and requesting SBA funding for use in its operations.

Area of Service. The State or territory, or portion of a State or territory (when there is more than one SBDC in a State or territory), or the District of Columbia, in which an applicant organization proposes to provide services or in which a recipient organization provides services.

Budget period. The 12-month period in which expenditure obligations are incurred by an SBDC network, coinciding with either the calendar year or the Federal fiscal year.

Cash Match. Non-Federal funds allocated specifically to the operation of the SBDC network equalling no less than fifty percent of the Federal funds. Cash Match includes direct costs committed by the applicant or recipient organization and sponsoring SBDC organizations, to the extent that such costs are committed as part of the verified, specific, line item direct costs prior to funding. Cash Match does not include